

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 24, 2003

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women was held on November 24, 2003 in Room 830 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California.

President Jernigan called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m., followed by introductions. The following Commissioners were present for roll call:

President Jernigan
Vice President Mariajimenez
Treasurer Lesser
Commissioner Cooperman
Commissioner Duba
Commissioner Morgan
Commissioner Mummey
Commissioner Rodriguez

President Jernigan asked the Commission to pause for a moment of silence in memory of former Commissioner Anita King.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 27, 2003 AND NOVEMBER 10, 2003

On motion of Treasurer Lesser, seconded by Vice President Mariajimenez, the minutes of October 27, 2003 and November 10, 2003, were approved, with President Jernigan abstaining from the minutes of November 10, 2003.

(Commissioners Creary and Davalos joined the meeting.)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- President Jernigan thanked Commissioners for the cards and well wishes she received during her recent illness.
- She provided a short history of Anita King's lifelong advocacy which included the following: Ms. King was appointed to the Commission for Women in 1983 and established the Commission's annual awards luncheon in 1985; she was appointed by former President Bush as a delegate to the United Nation's International Commission on the Status of Women; and represented the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).
- She spoke of the disparity between disability benefits of discharged female POWs Jessica Lynch and Shoshana Johnson. She informed the Commission that a Congressional investigation has begun and that the Commission should await the outcome of the investigation before becoming involved.

- She appointed the following Commissioners to serve on the 2004 Awards Luncheon Committee: Commissioner Lewis, Chair; Commissioner Davalos, First District; Commissioner Creary, Second District; Vice President Mariajimenez, Third District; Commissioner Mummey, Fourth District; and Commissioner Duba, Fifth District.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Lesser reported the following:

The beginning balance for the month of October 2003 was \$32,840.92; expenditures were \$1495.00; income was \$5 for the sale of a Ritual Abuse Handbook; the ending balance was \$31,350.92. The Commission has a budget of \$3,981.87 per month for the remaining eight months of the fiscal year.

She also noted that interest income for the month of October has not yet been posted.

APPROVE FIVE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS FOR THE COMMISSION'S 2003 CONTRIBUTION OF \$500 PER SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT

On motion of Commissioner Cooperman, seconded by Commissioner Creary, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the following five domestic violence shelters, one per Supervisorial district, to receive a 2003 Commission contribution in the amount of \$500:

- First District Chicana Service Action Center
- Second District Jenesse Center
- Third District Haven Hills
- Fourth District Rainbow Services
- Fifth District Antelope Valley Domestic Violence Council/Valley Oasis

President Jernigan, Vice President Mariajimenez, and Commissioners Davalos, Mummey, and Duba will deliver the checks to the domestic violence shelters in their respective districts.

FINAL REPORT ON THE 5TH ANNUAL 5K RUN/WALK FOR GIRLS-AT-RISK HELD ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2003 IN PASADENA

Commissioner Duba distributed the final report to the Commission which included an overview of the finances, including expenses, donations, income, and profit; sponsor, vendor and volunteer information; and an evaluation form to rate the event.

Commissioner Duba thanked Nyla Jefferson for her hard work and determination throughout the year. She also thanked the Internal Services Department for providing the race day equipment; and fellow Commissioners, sponsors, supporters, volunteers, and the 5K Run/Walk Subcommittee.

President Jernigan thanked Commissioner Duba and Nyla Jefferson for an outstanding job. She suggested that a copy of the report be sent to each Supervisor with a cover letter, signed by President Jernigan and Commissioner Duba, thanking them for their contributions to the event.

(Commissioner Carpenter-McMillan joined the meeting.)

**REPORT ON THE COMMISSION RETREAT/BUSINESS WORKING MEETING OF
OCTOBER 27, 2003**

Vice President Mariajimenez distributed a report on discussions and recommendations made at the Commission Retreat, which included the following:

- There is a need for administrative/secretarial support for committees to ensure expeditious processing of agendas, minutes, correspondence, and other necessary clerical work.
- The Commission's and Committees' meeting schedules should be changed to ensure timely accomplishment of Commission business.
- Research should be conducted into the possibility of the 5K Run/Walk for Girls-at-Risk be handed over to another agency or organization so that the Commission can better focus on its duties as laid out in its ordinance and allow the Commission to focus on specific goals that are attainable and positively impact the lives of women in L.A. County.
- Members discussed developing criteria by which issues are chosen, and that those issues relate directly to the ordinance and mission of the Commission.
- It was recommended that the Commission focus on two to three issues per year, and that they be specific and within the scope of the Commission's capability to successfully accomplish.
- It was decided that the Commission's annual domestic violence shelter check presentation and Holiday Gathering be replaced with Commissioners personally delivering donation checks to their respective shelters in an effort to establish and build solid relationships with the shelters.
- To better ensure quorums at meetings, it was recommended that staff poll Commissioners before meetings to advise them of the need for a quorum at the following meeting.
- Establishment of the 2003-04 goals will be made after the Commission acts on the recommendations brought forth at the Retreat.

After a period of discussion, on motion of Vice President Mariajimenez, seconded by Commissioner Carpenter-McMillan, with Commissioner Rodriguez abstaining, the

Commission voted to keep in place the 5K Run/Walk for Girls-at-Risk and the Annual Women of the Year Awards Luncheon.

The topic regarding changes to the Commission's and Committees' meeting schedules was tabled to the next meeting.

RENEW MEMBERSHIP TO SWEATSHOP WATCH FOR THE 2004 FISCAL YEAR

On motion of Commissioner Creary, seconded by Treasurer Lesser, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved renewing its membership to Sweatshop Watch at a cost of \$25.

APPROVAL OF VARIOUS EXPENDITURES

On motion of Commissioner Carpenter-McMillan, seconded by Commissioner Creary, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the following expenditures:

- Refreshments for a meeting with a delegation of women from China on December 8, 2003 at a cost not to exceed \$50;
- Reimburse the President's Fund \$200 for one ticket for a fundraiser for the National Association of Commissions for Women held on November 9, 2003;
- Reimburse the President's Fund \$125 for one ticket to attend the Mobility 21: Second Annual Countywide Transportation Summit held on November 17, 2003;
- Reimburse the President's Fund \$80 for four tickets to Senator Kuehl's health care system luncheon held on November 15, 2003.

DISCUSSION OF THE ADDITION OF A YOUTH MEMBER TO THE COMMISSION

On motion of Commissioner Creary, seconded by Commissioner Carpenter-McMillan, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved tabling the discussion of the addition of a youth member until the meeting of December 8, 2003.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Health Committee

Commissioner Creary discussed the deaths of two women at King/Drew Medical Center by alleged faulty equipment. She asked staff to locate a point person to meet with the Commission to address issues such as risk management, liability, training, and accountability at King/Drew Medical Center.

Legislative Committee

Vice President Mariajimenez reported on special hearings regarding Universal Health Care and Homeland Security bills.

Older Women's Issues Committee

Commissioner Mummey reported on the luncheon she attended hosted by Senator Kuehl on November 15, 2003. The Senator's bill, SB 921, relating to Universal Health Care, was the topic of discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anna Mace spoke of her alleged wrongful arrest and detention by the Long Beach Police Department.

MATTERS NOT POSTED ON THE AGENDA

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSIONERS

Ruth Jernigan, President
Yvonne Maria Jimenez, Vice President
Charlotte Lesser, Treasurer
Susan Carpenter-McMillan
Roslyn Cooperman
Ruth Creary, Ph.D.
Karin Davalos
Reiko Duba
Janet Mummey
Lila Morgan
Olivia Rodriguez

EXCUSED

Yolanda Becerra-Jones
Bonnie J. Lewis
Barbara Perkins

UNEXCUSED

Sophia Esparza

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Jim Corbett, Executive Office
Nyla Jefferson, Executive Office
Audra Galang, Executive Office
Angel Triola, Office of Affirmative Action Compliance

GUESTS

Genevieve Clavreul, Solutions Outside the Box
Anna Mace